



A Proclamation for the suppressing of seditious
Bookes and Libelles.



The Queenes most excellent Maiestie being giuen to vnderstand that diuers false, slanderous, wicked, seditious and trayterous bookes and libelles, are couertly and in secret maner dispersed through this Realme, by diuers seditious and trayterous persons, tending not onely to the defacing of true Religion now established within these her highnesse dominions, but also most traitterously & iniuriously to slander the present most happie & quiet gouernement, with crueltie and extraordinarie maner of proceedings in the due execution of iustice, and withall, most detestably and slanderously to reproche her most renoumed and deare father, the dishonour or note whereof, doth and cannot but touch her selfe, as neere as her Highnesse owne life, and so shee taketh it: In some of which their most shamesfull, infamous, and detestable libelles, they goe about to reproche, dishonour and touch with abominable lyes (as is well knowne to the whole Realme) not onely many of her most trustie and faithfull Counsellors, but also her Highnesse Judges and ministers of the lawe, greatly touching thereby her Highnesse selfe in her Regall and Kingly office, as making choyse of men of want both of iustice, care, and other sufficiencie to serue her Highnesse and the common weale. And further, in the sayd bookes and libelles, they vse all the meanes, driftes, and false perswasions they can deuise or imagine, to aduance such pretended titles, as consequently must be most daungerous and preiudiciall to the safetie of her Highnesse person and state, (which the Lorde long preserue.) Her highnesse foresceing, that the authors and dispersers of the saide bookes and libelles, doe by these wicked and indirect meanes, seeke most trayterously to render and make both her Highnesse, and her most gracious gouernement, odious and hatefull both abroade and at home: And hauing of late founde by plaine and manifest meanes and proofes, that their purpose and chiefe intent, to bring in obloquie & hatred, her Maiesties principall Noble men, Counsellors, Judges and ministers of Justice, is (as much as in them lieth) to slander, impeach, and deface her Maiesties most happie gouernement, and thereupon to breed some troubles within this Realme, whereby their unnatural, deuillish, and trayterous practises both against her Maiestie their naturall Soueraigne, and the Realme their owne natiue countrey, may take their desired effect: hath therefore thought meete, that some order should be presently taken, for the preventing & suppressing of such mischiefes, as otherwise through ignorance of the trueth might ensue thereby. And therefore her Highnesse doeth by this her Maiesties proclamation straightly charge and commaund, that all such persons to whose handes any of the saide bookes or libelles, either hath come, or shall hereafter at any time come, do presently with all conuenient speede, without shewing the same to any person, deliuer it to some one of her Highnesse priuie Counsel, if any such be within twentie miles. And if it be aboue that distance of miles from the Court, then to the Custos Rotulorum, or to his Deputie of the same Shire, where the partie shall be, that hath or shall haue any such booke or libel, and the same Custos Rotulorum or his Deputie, to whose handes any such booke or libel shall come, shall presently & safely send the same to the Lordes of her Maiesties most honourable priuie Council. And least that any euill disposed and affected person should maliciously and vnductifully make any wrong or sinister construction of this her Maiesties meaning towards such as mooued with that duetie and reuerence that appertaineth, shall make deliuey of any the sayd Bookes and libelles, her Highnesse pleasure is, and so doeth hereby sig-

mis to all her loving Subiectes, that they nor any of them shall be molested, impeached, or troubled for the having or receiving of any of the sayd Bookes or libels, so as they doe deliver the same according to the tenor & true meaning of this present Proclamation, and so as it do appeare that they have bene no setters forth, dispersers, maintainers or authors of any of the sayde bookes or libelles. And in case any of the sayde parties that eyther hath, or at any time hereafter shal have any of the sayd bookes or libelles, shal not make delivery thereof in sort as is before specified: Then her Highnesse further pleasure and expresse commaundement is, that the partie or parties so offending, shall be committed to prison, there to remaine without baile or maineprie, untill order shalbe taken by the Lordes of her Majesties privie Counsel, for the proceeding against such offenders for such their offence, according to the nature and qualitie of the sayd offence. And her Majesties further pleasure is, that all Marchantes, masters of Shippes, officers of Ports, or any other that shalbe bringer into this Realme of any the sayde seditious bookes or libelles, or a disperser of the same, or shall hereafter be any way privie to the making, bringing in, or dispersing of them, or any of them, and shall not immediatly discover such offender or offenders to the next Justice of the peace where such offence shall be committed, whereby the offenders may be apprehended, and brought to be forthcomming to receive such punishment as his sayd offence shal deserue: That then such person or persons so offending, shalbe committed to prison, there to remaine without bayle or maineprie as aforesayd, untill he be proceeded on according to Justice. And for the better execution of the sayd Proclamation, her Majestie is pleased, that all such persons as shall detect any of the sayd offenders, whereby they may be forthcomming to receive condigne punishment according to their demerites, shall have the moitie of such forfeitures and penalties, as shalbe layde or inflicted vpon such offenders so by them detected, for such their offences. And in case any Mayor, Justice of peace, or other publique and inferiour officer shall be found remisse in the due execution of the sayd Proclamation, that then the sayd partie or parties so offending, shall also be produced before the sayd Lordes, to receive punishment for that contempt and remissenes bled in that behalfe, in such sort as shal appertayne to the nature and qualitie of the same offence. Given at her Majesties Honour of Hampton court, the twelfth day of October, in the sixe and twentieth yeere of her Majesties reigne.

God save the Queene.

Imprinted at London by Christopher

Barker, Printer to the Queenes most excellent

Majestie.